

meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.

(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: *Provided*, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

#### **§ 924.33 Expenses and compensation.**

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part and may also receive compensation, as determined by the committee, which shall not exceed \$10 per day or portion thereof spent in performing such duties: *Provided*, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses and compensation, as aforesaid.

#### **§ 924.34 Annual report.**

The committee shall, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the prune industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

#### **EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS**

#### **§ 924.40 Expenses.**

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its main-

tenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in § 924.41.

#### **§ 924.41 Assessments.**

(a) Each person who first handles prunes shall, with respect to the prunes so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee during each fiscal period. Each such person's share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of prunes handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period and the total quantity of prunes so handled by all persons during the same fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all prunes handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

#### **§ 924.42 Accounting.**

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund

## § 924.45

of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: *Provided*, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more fiscal years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses authorized pursuant to § 924.40.

(3) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: *Provided*, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to his successor in office, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

### RESEARCH

#### § 924.45 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production re-

## 7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-97 Edition)

search, and marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fresh prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 924.41.

[39 FR 33306, Sept. 17, 1974]

### REGULATIONS

#### § 924.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to § 924.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(1) The estimated total production of prunes within the production area;

(2) The expected general quality and size of prunes in the production area and in other areas;

(3) The expected demand conditions for prunes in different market outlets;

(4) The expected shipments of prunes produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;

(5) Supplies of competing commodities;

(6) Trend and level of consumer income;

(7) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of prunes; and

(8) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for prunes, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report, and copies thereof shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

#### § 924.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of prunes in